

A humpback whale is shown swimming underwater in deep blue water. The whale is positioned in the lower half of the frame, moving towards the right. Its head is visible, showing the characteristic bumps (warts) on its forehead. The water is clear and blue, with some light reflections on the surface. The overall scene is serene and captures the whale in its natural habitat.

Conservation Working Group (CWG)

Proposed 2015 Work Plan

Presented to MBNMS SAC by CWG Chair Geoff Shester
February 20, 2015

Recent CWG Activities

- Resolution Supporting Plastic Bag Bans (2011)
- Forage Fish White Paper and Resolution (2012)
- Identification of Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas and Essential Fish Habitat Proposal (2013)
- Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation Summit (2013)
- Acoustic Impacts Presentations (2014)

Proposed CWG 2015 Focus Areas

Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation

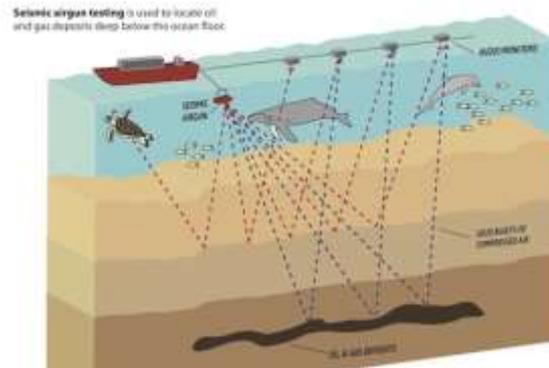


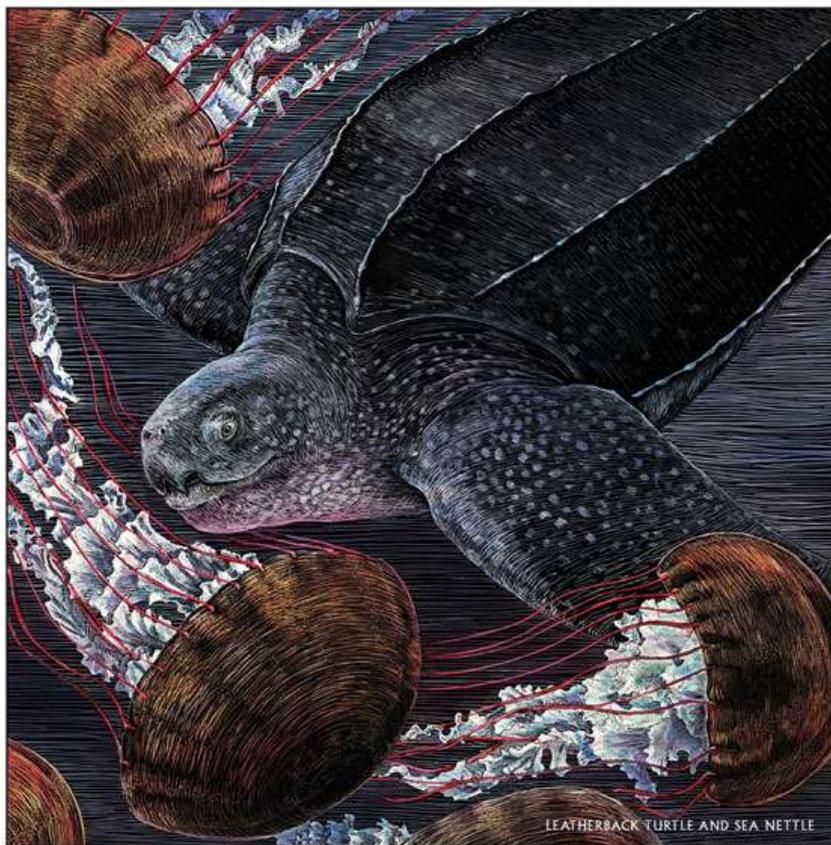
Whale Entanglements



Image courtesy of Peggy Stap / Marine Life Studies (MMHSRP Permit #932-1489; NMFS Permit #1094-1836) 5/10/08

Acoustic Impacts to Marine Life





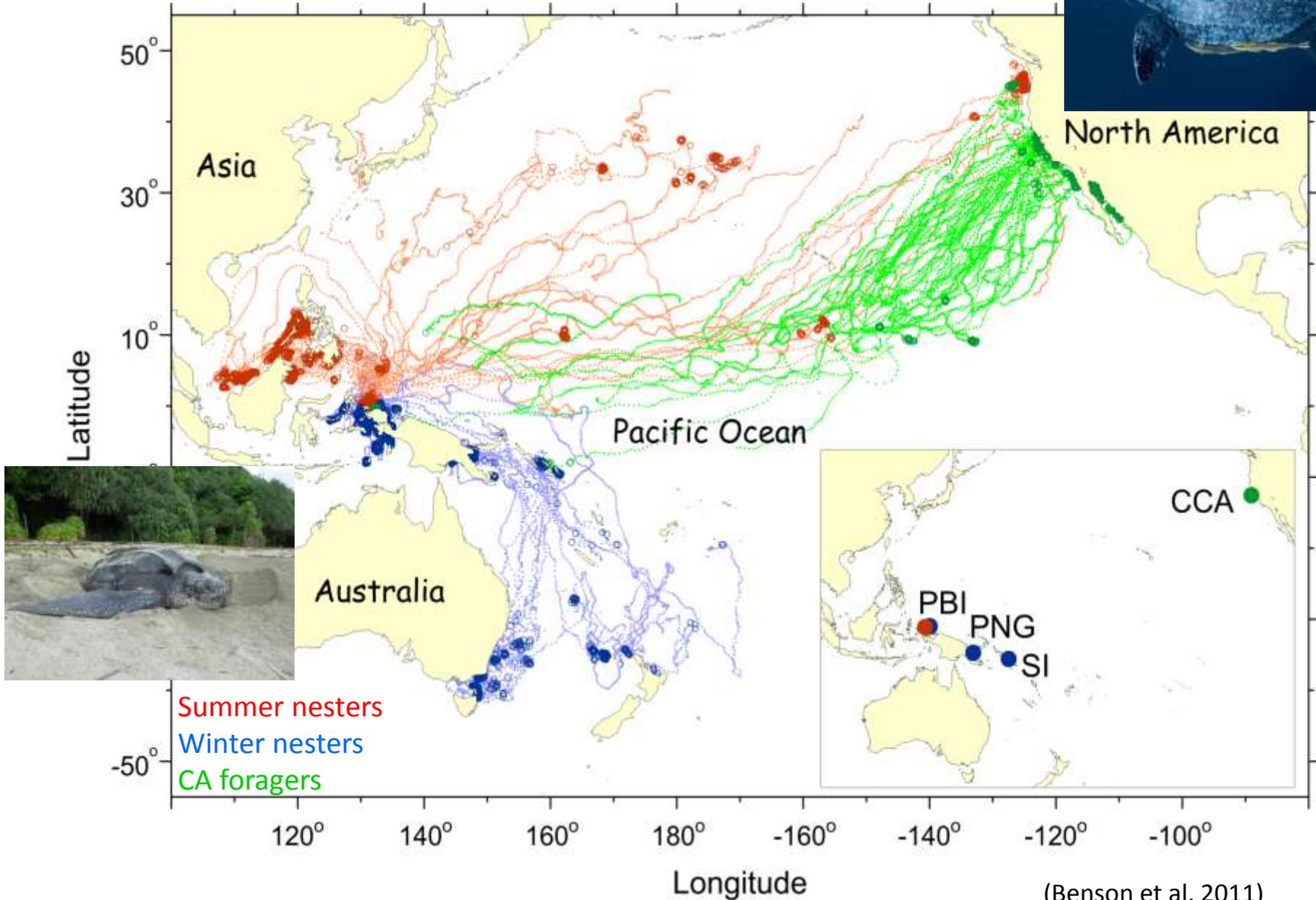
THREATENED

AND

THRIVING

IN THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Western Pacific Leatherback Range and Migrations



(Benson et al. 2011)

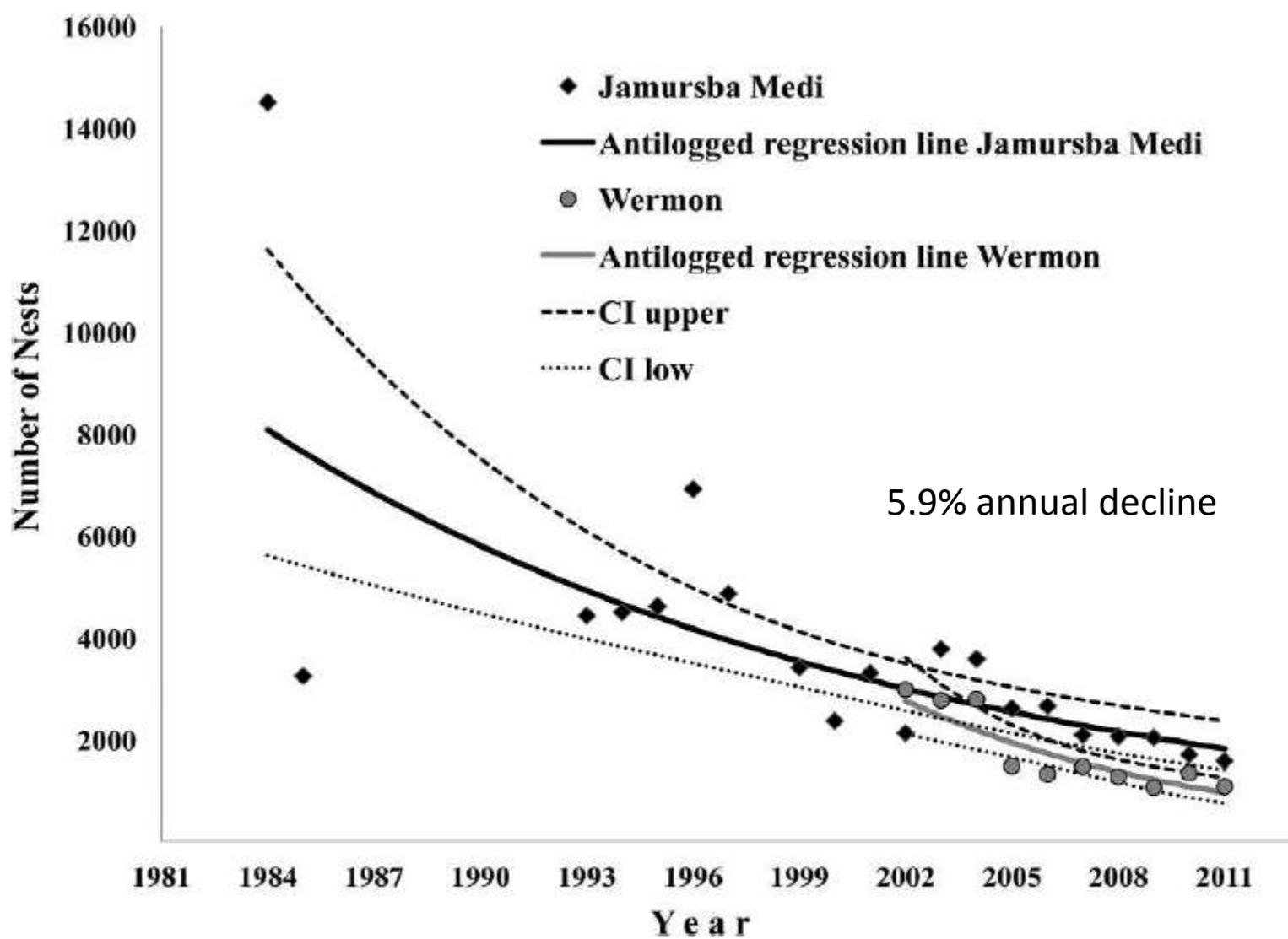


Fig. 3. Leatherback nesting abundance (number of nests) trend at Jamursba Medi from 1984–2011 and Wermon from 2002–2011. Annual nest numbers shown for Jamursba Medi include estimates for 1984–2004 and observed numbers for 2005–2011. Beaches were not monitored from 1986–1992 and during 1998. Annual nest numbers for Wermon estimates for 2002–2003 and observed numbers for 2004–2011. The annual interval spans April 1 of each year indicated to March 31 of the following year.



Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation Summit



DECLARATION

We, the Governments, Leaders, and Organizations participating in the Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation Summit

Gathered here in Monterey, California, USA on October 15, 2013

Commemorating the State of California's inaugural Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation Day; and

Acknowledging the ecological and cultural importance of our shared population of Pacific leatherbacks to our respective geographic regions; and

Recognizing the plight of the endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtle populations and the threats facing these ancient turtles from their nesting beaches in the Tambrauw region of West Papua, Indonesia throughout their trans-oceanic migrations to their coastal foraging areas off the west coast of the United States; and

Also recognizing our mutual commitments to recover endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtles throughout their life cycle; now, therefore

Declare our intent to initiate and build a collaborative partnership to conserve and restore our shared population of Pacific leatherback sea turtles for the benefit of healthy oceans, future generations, and posterity.

The Honorable Paul Fong
California Assembly District 28

The Honorable Gabriel Assem
Tambrauw Regent

Janelle Beland
California Natural Resources Agency

The Honorable Mark Stone
California Assembly District 29

M. Anri Masri
Tambrauw Secretary

Danny H. Pattipeilloy
BBKSDA Papua Barat

Geoffrey Shester
Oceana

Ricardo Tapilatu
State University of Papua, Indonesia

Benja V. Mambai
WWF Indonesia

Teri Shore
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Jacobus Ayomi
Marine and Fisheries Division of
Tambrauw

Simona Bartl
Monterey Bay National Marine
Sanctuary Education Panel

Our Shared Pacific Leatherbacks



Our Shared Pacific Leatherbacks

73 likes · 1 talking about this

Liked Message

Community

Learn encouraging Monterey Bay educators to promote Pacific Leatherback conservation with infatic updates and classroom development. This collaborative approach will result in shared curriculum with Indonesian students about our shared turtle.



73

About · Suggest an Edit

Photos

Likes



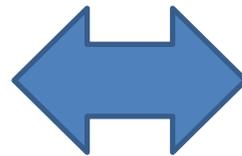
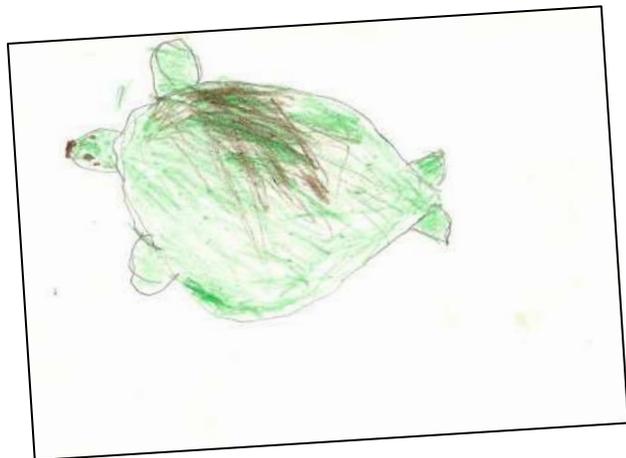
Leatherback Educational Exchanges



Students in Warmandi, Indonesia



Save Our Shores Classroom of the Year
Mt. Madonna 5th graders in 2014



Proposed CWG 2015 Activities

Leatherback Sea Turtles

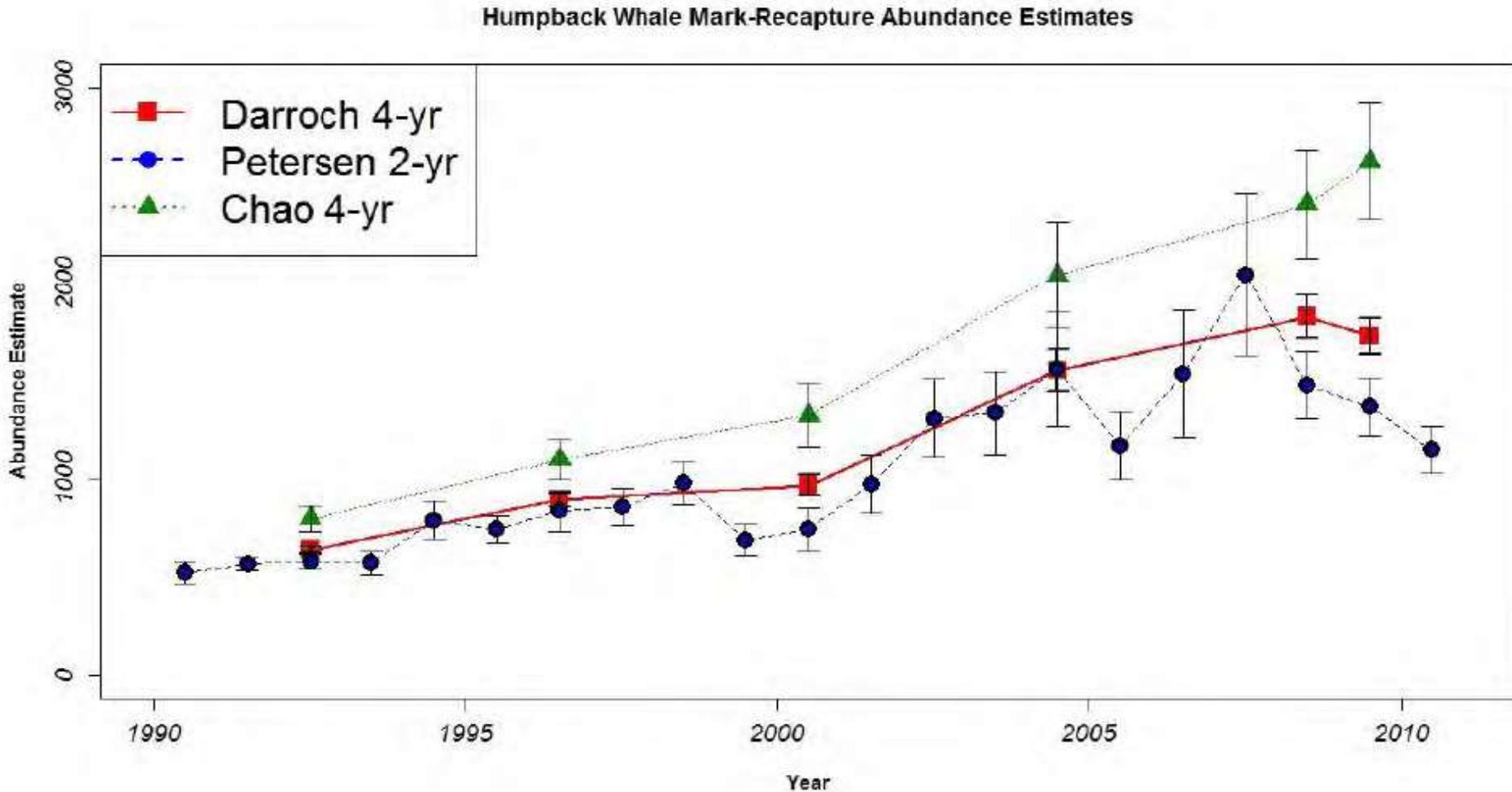
- Pursue collaborations with Indonesia, California, and NOAA through existing international agreements
- Organize Leatherback Day 2015 Event
- Produce 10-minute video on Leatherback Summit with Your Sanctuary TV
- Life-size leatherback sculpture
- Continued educational exchanges between local schools and Indonesian schools

Whale Entanglements



Image courtesy of Peggy Stap / Marine Life Studies
(MMHSRP Permit #932-1489, NMFF Permit #1094-1836) 5/10/08

Humpback Whale Population Growth



Existing Data:

U.S. West Coast

- From 2000-2012, average of 10 entanglements observed and reported per year on U.S. west coast
- “An average of 103 whale entanglements per year may be occurring”

– Saez et al. 2013

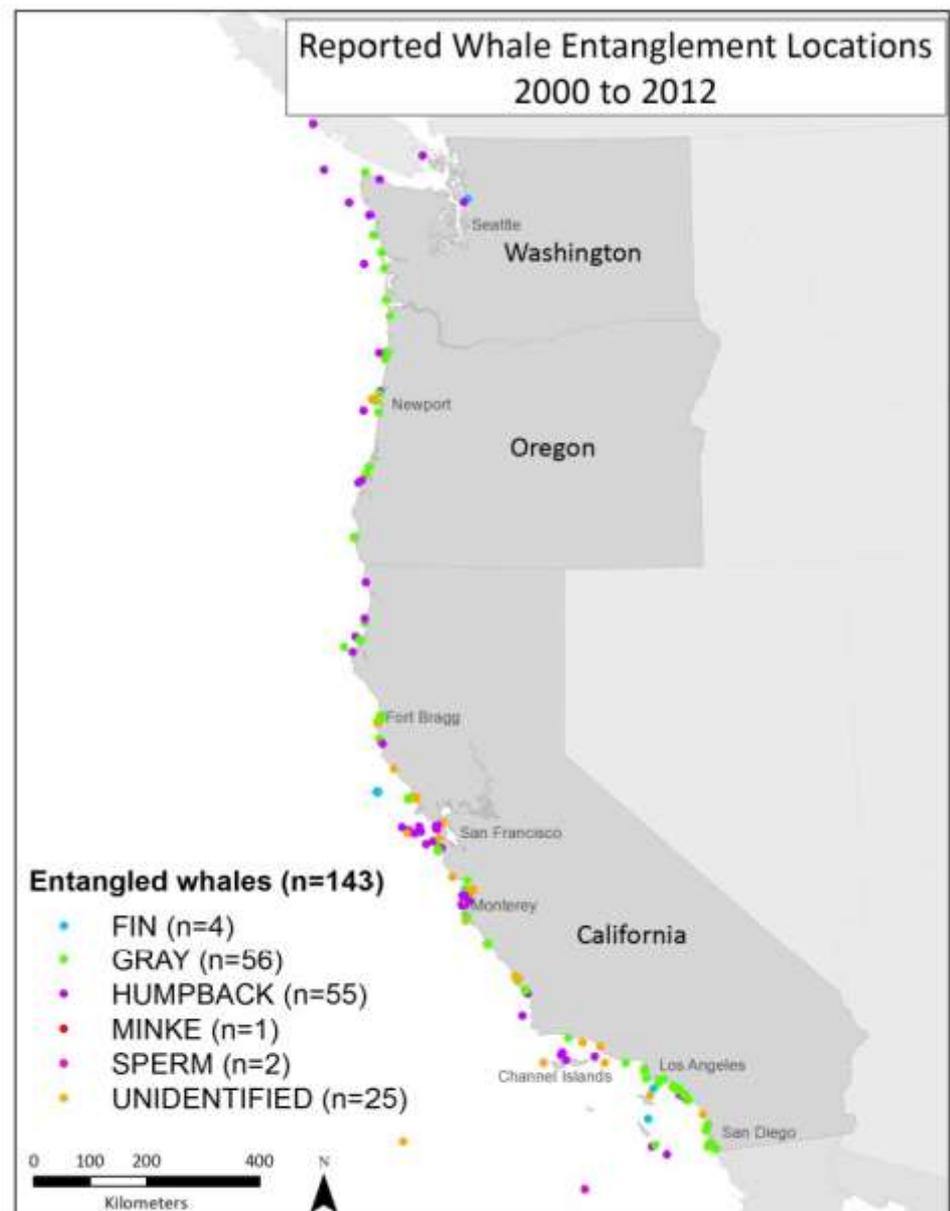
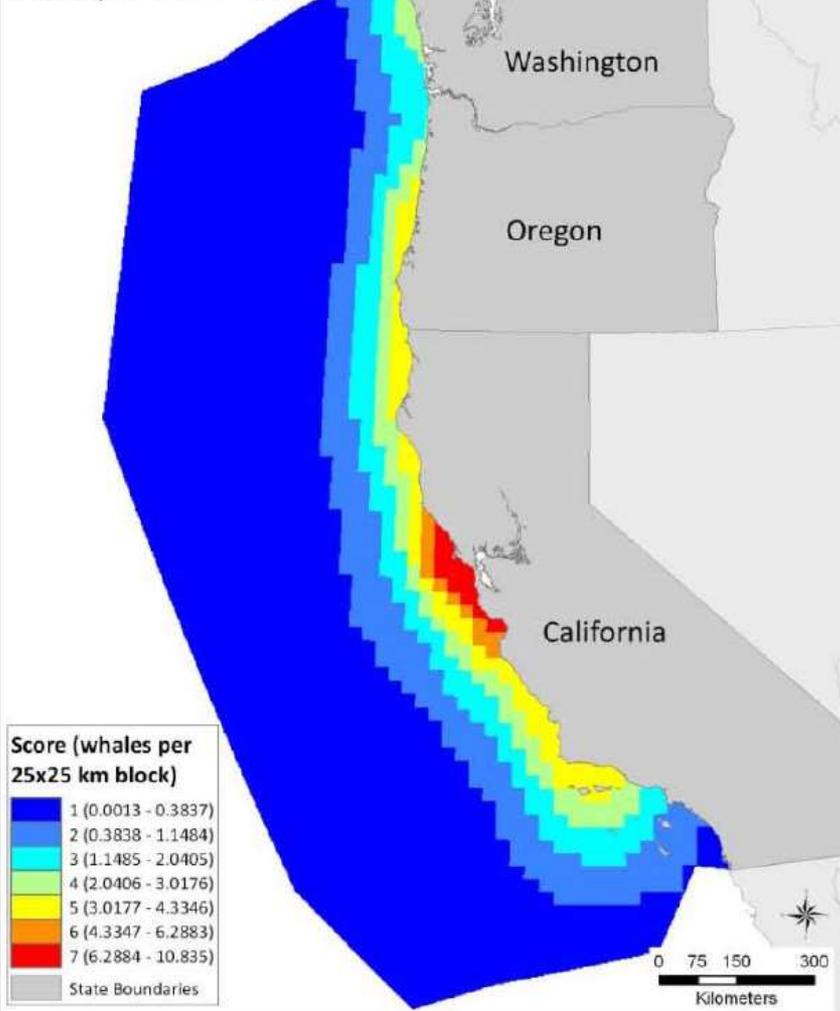


Figure 4. Whale entanglement locations from 2000 to 2012 (n=143). One dot represents a unique record, and does not include re-sights. Source: Saez *et al.*, in prep

Humpback Whale



Multi-year average density map

MBNMS is a hotspot of humpback whale density and entanglement risk



Humpback Whale - All Fixed Gear Fisheries



Entanglement Prevention

- Derelict Gear Removal



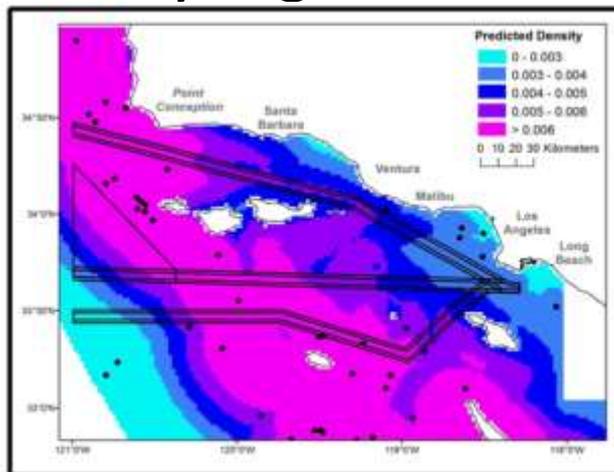
Figure 10. Gear removal efforts by the California Lost Gear Recovery Program

- Gear modifications



Fixed gear modifications in the ALWTRP: weak links and modified anchors

- Identify high-risk areas



- Gear type marking



Entanglement Response

- Whale Entanglement Team
 - History of CWG involvement
 - Resource needs
- Existing MBNMS Activities
- Outreach (877-SOS-WHALE)



Proposed CWG 2015 Activities

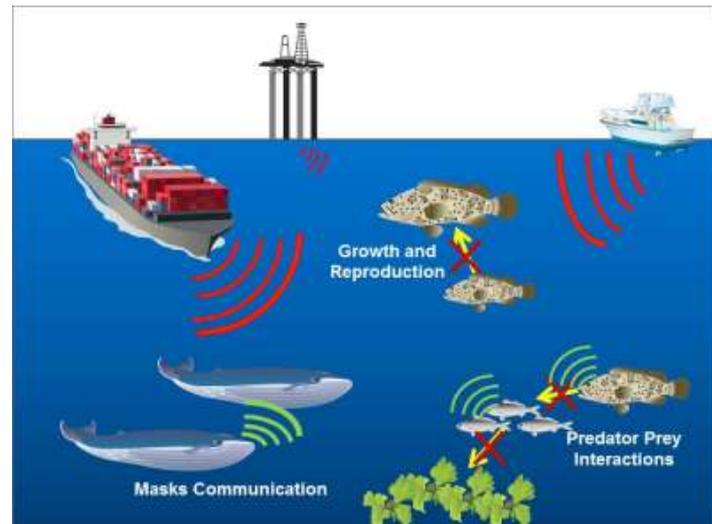
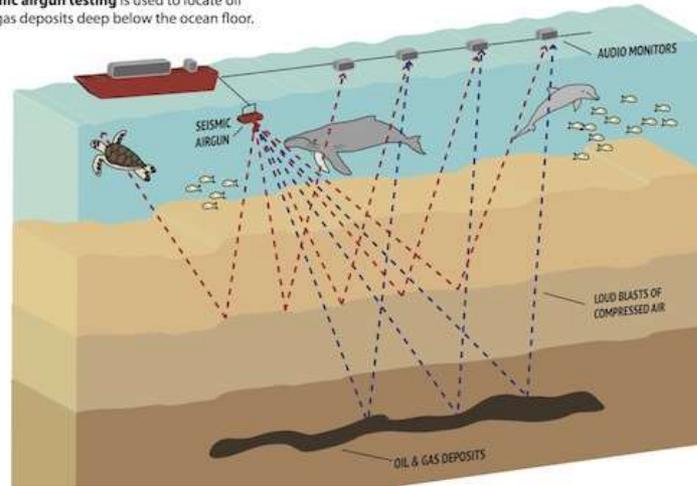
Whale Entanglements

- Support Whale Entanglement Team and existing MBNMS efforts
- Compile existing data/information on entanglements in the MBNMS in a report to the SAC
- Develop recommendations to SAC for potential MBNMS future efforts on entanglement prevention and response
- Outreach to public & fishermen

Acoustic Impacts

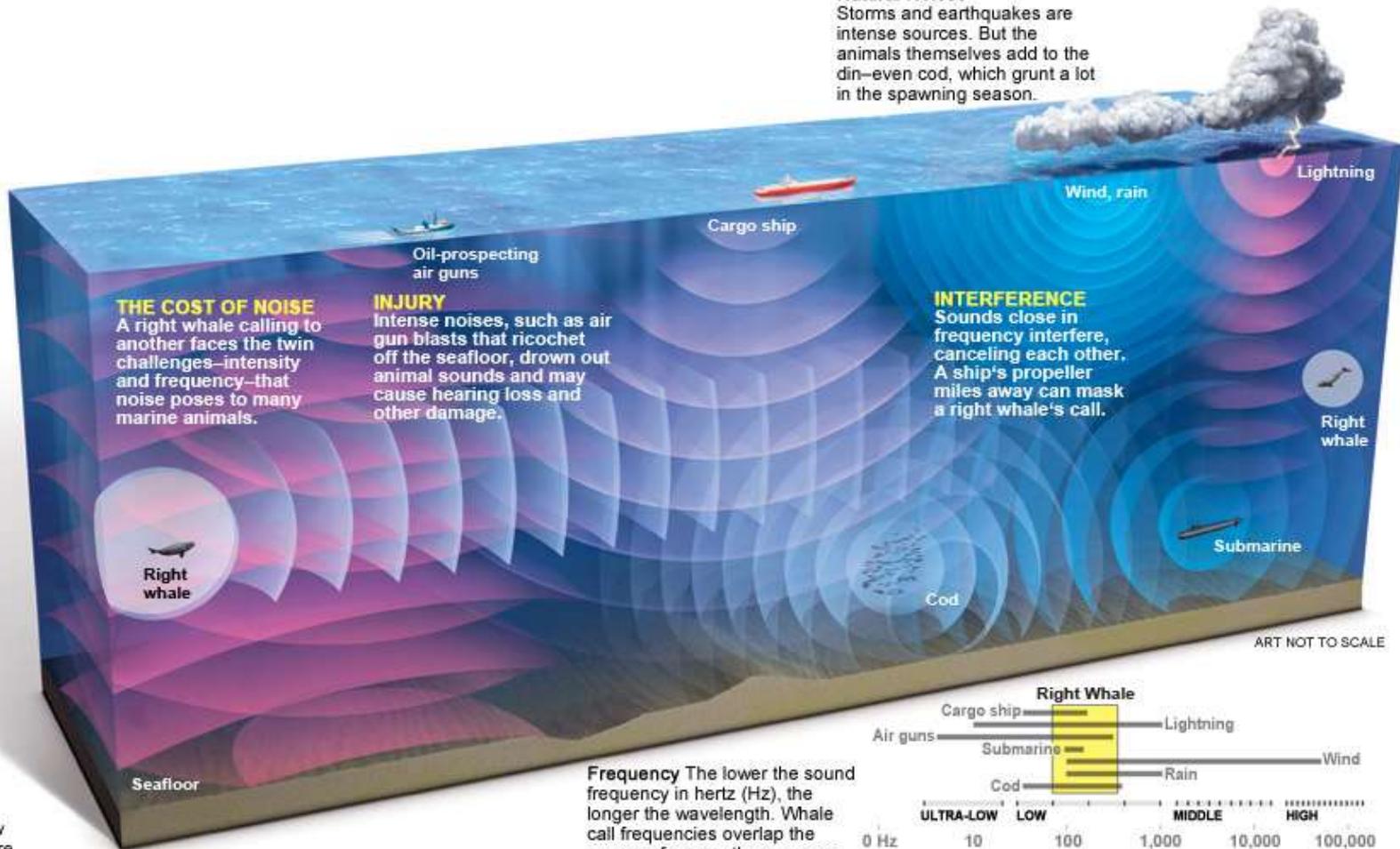
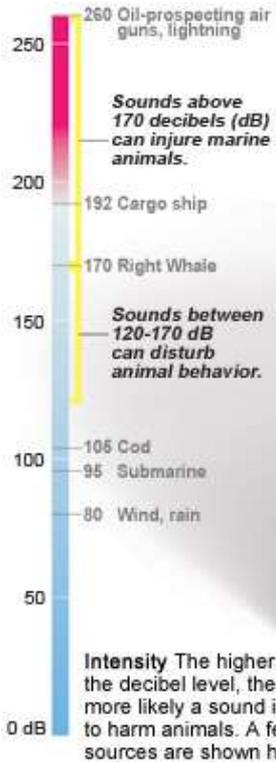
- Acoustic impacts are now a major national issue
- MBNMS at forefront of research on healthy soundscape
- Expert presentations to SAC in 2014

Seismic airgun testing is used to locate oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor.

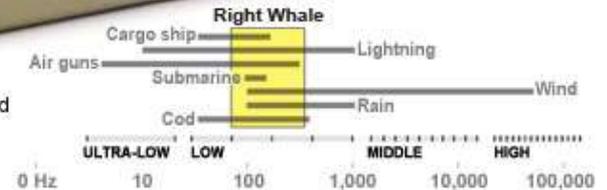


*Acoustic sources and impacts on marine life
(IAN :Integration & Application Network—University of Maryland)*

Natural Noises
 Storms and earthquakes are intense sources. But the animals themselves add to the din—even cod, which grunt a lot in the spawning season.



Frequency The lower the sound frequency in hertz (Hz), the longer the wavelength. Whale call frequencies overlap the ranges of many other sources.



Proposed CWG 2015 Activities

Acoustic Impacts

- Focus area for Management Plan Update as per Oct 2014 SAC motion
- Monitor and provide national policy updates on acoustic issues



Draft CWG 2015 Work Plan

Topic	Proposed CWG Activities
Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile list of ongoing Leatherback conservation activities at nesting beaches• Participate in Working Group with NMFS to identify Indonesia collaborators and integrate Leatherback Summit concepts under the existing 2010 Science & Technology Agreement (Indonesia/US)• Organize/fundraise for 2015 Leatherback Day event (October)• Continue CWG/SEP collaboration on education/outreach (i.e., turtle camp)• Explore potential to partner with Your Sanctuary TV on a 10-minute video on Leatherback Summit• Develop concept for life-size Leatherback sculpture
Whale Entanglement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for Whale Entanglement Team funding, resources, and equipment and existing MBNMS efforts• Outreach to public & fishermen• Compile existing data/information on entanglements in the MBNMS in a report to the SAC• Develop recommendations to SAC for potential MBNMS future efforts on entanglement prevention and response
Acoustics/Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor for research and national policy updates• Conduct additional work as needed or requested by the SAC• Plan for CWG participation acoustic issues in the upcoming management plan update